Welcome to 7th grade life science! In this year’s science class we will be exploring life. What makes something alive? What do we need to stay alive? How do all of the parts of the body work together to sustain life? Why do children resemble their parents? How has life changed over time? We will work together throughout the school year to answer all of these questions and more. Science is a process of thinking that requires curiosity and exploration, so you will responsible for taking an active role in our classroom. We will be doing a lot of fun hands-on activities that will require you to think like a scientist in order to understand the basic principles of life.  
  
**Topics Covered:**

* Unit 1—Investigating the Nature of Living Things: Students will study the science of living organisms and find out what makes something alive.
* Unit 2—Investigating Human Biology: Students will study the internal systems of human beings that keep us alive.
* Unit 3—Investigating Genetics: Students will investigate how and why traits are passed from parents to offspring.
* Unit 4—Investigating Evidence of Change: Students will explore the similarities and difference of all organisms past and present.

**Materials Needed:**

* A section for science in a 3-ring binder
* Composition book or spiral notebook for science only
* Loose leaf paper
* Pencil or pen
* Student agenda book
* Recommended: ruler, colored pencils, highlighter

**Grading Policy:**

**40%** Classwork  
**40%** Test, Quizzes, and Projects  
**20%** Homework

90.0 – 100.0 A  
80.0 – 89.4 B  
70.0 – 79.4 C  
60.0 – 69.4 D

0-59.4 E

Classwork will be assigned every day, but may not always be graded. Included in classwork will be weekly warm-ups. Answer sheets for warm-ups will be distributed on Mondays and collected on Fridays. It is the student’s responsibility to keep this paper in their binder all week.

Tests and quizzes will generally be announced about a week in advance. Short vocabulary quizzes will usually occur on Fridays every 1-2 weeks.

According to school policy, late homework may not be accepted for credit. Students must have their homework ready to turn in when they arrive to class. They will not be permitted to return to their lockers for forgotten materials. Grades will be updated regularly on Aspen, as well as periodically posted in the classroom.

**Classroom Expectations:**

Students are expected to follow Murray Hill’s RRRoar expectations. Students should be:

* Respectful
* Responsible
* Ready

Our classroom has 5 rules that students need to follow at all times.

* Listen and follow directions.
* Respect your classmates, teacher, and classroom.
* Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking or leaving your seat.
* Keep your hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
* Use materials appropriately.

Consequences for not following these expectations will follow the school-wide PBIS pathway:

1. First reminder
2. Second reminder and warning of potential consequence
3. In-class pause and reflection sheet
4. Sent to buddy room, receive MIR, parent contact.

\*Chronic or severe misbehavior will lead to an office referral.

Cell phone policy: Cell phones must be turned off or on silent. Cell phones must remain out of sight and may not be used for any reason in the classroom. If a student’s phone makes noise in class, or if the student is using the cell phone during class, the phone will be taken away and given to an administrator. A parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the phone.

**Attendance and Lateness Policy:**

It is important for students to be in class every day. However, if a student is absent from school and has a note with a county-recognized excuse, he or she may make up the work within the same number of days that he or she was absent. It is the student’s responsibility to retrieve his or her make-up work from the designated bin in the classroom and to obtain missed notes from another student in class. Unexcused absences will result in a zero for any missed work, including tests and quizzes.

Students are also expected to be on time to class every day. Students who are late to class will be required to sign into class on the Late Log. Consequences for being late to class will follow the school-wide 4–step process:

First tardy: Warning

Second tardy: Second warning

Third tardy: Parent contact to notify of potential consequence

Fourth tardy: Office referral and Friday school

**My Contact Information:**

Email: jennifer\_snyder@hcpss.org Phone: 410-880-5897

The best way to reach me is via email. I will make every effort to respond to emails or phone calls within 48 hours.

Please review these expectations and policies with a parent/guardian and sign below. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I’m looking forward to a great school year!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_